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**ADEN PROTECTORATE. 22 May**—R.A.F. aircraft were reported to have bombed five small villages in southern Arabia on 20 May, after rebel tribesmen had refused to pay fines for an attack on a Government convoy on 12 May in which three guards and a civilian had been killed.

**ALGERIA. 19 May**—Reinforcements for Algeria (*see France*).

In terrorist incidents in the Aurès region one Frenchman and three Algerians were reported murdered.

**20 May**—M. Soustelle, Governor-General, made a statement to the press in which he declared that France would never renounce her peaceful mission among the loyal population, but would in future show 'pitiless severity' to rebels and to all who gave them aid or comfort in any form. He said that rebel activity in the Aurès had reached 'real intensity', and it was 'disquieting' over a much wider area, but he was convinced that the measures to restore French authority would succeed though it would not be the work of a day. The liberation brought by the so-called 'national army of liberation' was oppression and terror, nor were the rebels national. They took their orders from abroad and were murderers of their fellow Muslims.

**21 May**—About sixty bandits attacked a military post south of Kenchala. They were driven back with the aid of French aircraft.

**22 May**—Three engagements between rebels and security forces were reported from the Aurès region. Near Tkout a French soldier was killed and two wounded, and one rebel killed; in the Djebel Amrane a rebel band was surrounded and fourteen killed; and a major engagement was reported near the Zarzedas dam, north of Constantine.

**24 May**—It was learnt that twenty-three rebels were killed in the previous week during an unsuccessful terrorist attack on the village of Kheirane in the Aurès area.

One Algerian auxiliary soldier and three civilians were killed by rebels near Ouldja in the Aurès region. The station of Sidi Hemeffi, near the Tunisian border on the Algiers-Tunis line, was set on fire; and at el Affroun, near Algiers, vines were uprooted or slashed.

M. Dupuis, a French official, a lieutenant, and four of their escort were killed in an ambush in south-eastern Algeria. The rest of the escort, numbering thirty-one, were reported to have joined the terrorists.

**25 May**—Hundreds of suspected terrorists were arrested in a new security drive.

**26 May**—Further French announcement *re* despatch of reinforcements (*see France*).

In a speech opening the Algerian Assembly, M. Soustelle said there was only one answer to the challenge to France—'to fight back with all our forces'. Order would be restored with the complete defeat of the adversary. This aim would be pursued unreservedly and the French Government was providing all the means he asked for to the limit of what it possessed.

The French Minister of the Interior stated in the National Assembly that in future all rebels captured bearing arms would be 'instantly punished' but there was no question of 'blind repression'. He after-

wards received a list of demands from 100 mayors of Algerian towns, including one for the 'execution on the spot' of all those guilty of crimes against persons or property and one for the dissolution of the Communist Party and other 'separatist elements'.

**1 June**—Terrorist acts continued in the Constantine department, and three murders were reported. In the Nementcha mountains security forces killed two rebels and captured three.

**ARGENTINA. 19 May—Disestablishment Bill.** The House of Deputies approved by 121 votes to 12 the Bill to disestablish the Roman Catholic Church. It provided for a constituent assembly with power to amend all articles in the Constitution concerning religion, and also for a referendum through a popularly elected convention.

**20 May**—The Senate approved the disestablishment Bill unanimously and also a Bill making the Church and all its properties subject to ordinary taxation.

Fifteen more residents of the village of Luque in Cordoba province were sentenced to fifteen days' detention for participating in a Roman Catholic procession without permission.

**24 May—Democracia,** a semi-official newspaper regarded as the Government's mouthpiece, reported that a Roman Catholic campaign of terrorism was to be unleashed the next day (the 145th anniversary of the revolution).

It was learned that three more priests and fifteen laymen had been arrested in Santa Fé City for defying the ban on religious processions.

**25 May**—For the first time for over 100 years the President and members of the Government stayed away from the *Te Deum* in the Cathedral commemorating the patriotic revolution of 1810.

**29 May—Anti-Catholic Law.** A law to reform the Constitution so as to allow the disestablishment of the Roman Catholic Church was promulgated and published in the official bulletin. It provided that all religions should enjoy equal freedom and legal rights. A second law subjected religious institutions to ordinary taxation.

**AUSTRALIA. 25 May—Cyprus.** Mr Casey, Minister for External Affairs, said in the House of Representatives that Australia supported Britain's stand on Cyprus and deplored efforts to resolve the question of the island's future by force and terrorism.

**AUSTRIA. 22 May—U.S.S.R.** The Soviet information service announced that the Federal Chancellor had been informed that henceforth until the Soviet forces left Austria the military commandaturas would work only in towns and districts where Russian troops were actually stationed. Their activities would be confined to garrison duties and they would no longer exercise any supervision over the local Austrian authorities.

**29 May—The State Treaty.** The Chancellor, speaking in Vienna, said that while the financial burdens imposed by Russia were onerous they could be borne by the Austrian economy. They amounted to over

**Austria** (*continued*)

1,000 m. schillings a year, but their Budget totalled 23,000 m. He denied rumours that the Government had been forced to take certain Opposition leaders into the Government; no political obligations had been entered into. One of their first tasks would be to create an army, and this would be based on the principle of universal male service, with the term of service as short as possible.

**1 June—Concordat with the Vatican.** The Roman Catholic Church in Austria published a White Book registering its claim with the Government to have the Concordat with the Vatican, signed in 1933, re-established. (It had been annulled by the Nazis in 1938.) The White Book stated that the Concordat still existed in theory, as 'the Austria of 1945 is, according to international law, identical with the Austria of 1933. She is therefore obliged to fulfil it', though it needed revising in several respects.

**BRITISH GUIANA. 22 May**—It was learnt that all people detained after the incidents in the autumn of 1953, when the Constitution was suspended, had been freed and the detention camp at Mazaruni penal settlement closed.

**BURMA. 23 May**—A band of about 200 Karens attacked Khalauckchaik, on the opposite bank of the river from Rangoon but were beaten off by the police.

**29 May**—The Prime Minister, U Nu, left Rangoon for visits to Israel, Yugoslavia, Britain, the U.S.A., and Japan.

**CANADA. 20 May—U.S.-Canadian Radar Agreement.** The Minister for External Affairs announced in Parliament an agreement under which the United States Government would pay the full cost of the construction and operation of the Dew (distant early warning) line of radar stations in the Canadian far north.

**25 May—Trade.** Mr Howe, Minister of Trade, speaking in Montreal, expressed the hope that if the United States considered imposing restrictions on imports to safeguard its national security it would not overlook the detrimental effects such action might have upon those very same interests. He said that Canadian exports in volume were at the highest level ever attained in peace time; trade for the first quarter of 1955 was \$100 m. ahead of the first quarter of 1954, and exports over six months were a record.

**CEYLON. 19 May—Floods.** Serious floods near Colombo were stated to have caused the loss of ten lives and to have made thousands homeless.

**25 May—Attitude to British.** Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister, said at the opening of a college in Nawalapitiya: 'It is difficult for Ceylon to do away with Englishmen completely. We simply cannot live without them because we will be utterly helpless without them.' The day Ceylon dispensed with Englishmen completely, he added, the island would go under India.

**CHILE. 23 May—Cabinet Changes.** Colonel Vergara, Minister of Works, was appointed Defence Minister and General Schweser Minister of Works, to replace the colonel.

**24 May—'Straight Line' Movement.** It was learnt that five senior officers of the army—one general, three colonels, and a major—were under arrest and held *incommunicado* in Santiago on suspicion of being implicated in the 'Straight Line' movement, a secret society of officers aiming at the suppression of the will of Congress and the conversion of President Ibañez into a virtual military dictator. General Araya Stilic, C.-in-C. of the Army, had declared that any officer found guilty of 'Straight Line' activities would be punished.

**30 May—Government Resignation.** The Cabinet resigned owing to the resignation of the Ministers of Finance and Defence followed by that of others belonging to the Agrarian Labour Party who were dissatisfied with the action of the Government in refusing to give asylum to thirteen Peruvian students deported from Argentina.

President Ibañez formed a new Cabinet with Admiral Kaare Olsen as Foreign Minister and Señor Abraham Perez as Finance Minister. Members of the Agrarian Labour Party agreed to serve as personal friends of the President.

**Territorial Waters.** The Foreign Ministry announced that Chile, Peru, and Ecuador had reaffirmed their claim to sovereignty over waters extending 200 miles from their coasts, and had refused a U.S. request that the matter should be taken to the International Court at The Hague.

**CHINA. 20 May—India.** Mr Krishna Menon, chief Indian delegate to the United Nations, concluded his discussions with Mr Chou En-lai.

**25 May—Quemoy.** Communist guns at Amoy fired at the Nationalist-held island of Little Quemoy.

**26 May—Indonesian report on cause of loss of Air India air liner (see India).**

**Indonesia.** Mao Tse-tung received the Prime Minister of Indonesia, Dr Sastroamidjojo, in Peking.

**Port Arthur.** The Russian military authorities left Port Arthur, and Chinese army officers took over occupation, in accordance with the agreement of October 1954.

**29 May—Mr R. W. Ford left China for Hong Kong after being released by the Peking Government from imprisonment for nearly five years. He had been captured in Tibet in 1950, when he was working for the Tibetan Government.**

**30 May—American Airmen.** Peking Radio announced that a people's court had convicted four U.S. airmen of 'acts of provocation' by intruding into the territorial air of China and ordered them to be deported. (They had been shot down over two years previously and kept in custody.)

**31 May—The four U.S. airmen were released and reached Hong Kong, leaving there for Honolulu.**

**1 June—Americans Held in China.** Representations regarding U.S. citizens and airmen in China (see *United States and United Nations*).

**CYPRUS. 20 May**—Greek protest *re* treatment of Greek air crews (*see Greece*).

**24 May**—School children in Nicosia stoned cars and shouted anti-British slogans in a demonstration against the Empire Day holiday.

**25 May**—A bomb exploded in a Nicosia cinema a few minutes after the Governor and the rest of the audience, mainly British, had left. The film show was in aid of the Cyprus branch of the British Legion.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 31 May**—**Arrests of Foreign Spies.** The Ministry of the Interior announced the arrest of thirteen men alleged to have been sent from west Germany by the U.S. secret service, and a number of others with 'espionage connections'.

**EGYPT. 20 May**—Censure of Egypt and Israel for Gaza incident (*see Israel*).

**Sudan: Nile Waters Dispute.** Major Salem, Minister of National Guidance, announced in Cairo that Egypt and the Sudan had reached agreement on the distribution of the Nile waters 'on a satisfactory and fair basis'.

**21 May**—Egyptian and Israeli forces exchanged fire for two hours in the Gaza area.

**Press Censorship.** Colonel Nasser, Prime Minister, signed an order lifting the censorship of the press to allow discussion of new Governmental measures proposed for introduction in January 1956.

**23 May**—**Border Incident.** Egyptian sources reported that Egyptian troops had fought off an attack by two Israeli armed vehicles near Auja in the Gaza area and had captured one of them.

**24 May**—Egyptian proposal for solution of Nile waters dispute (*see Sudan*).

**30 May**—**Border Incidents.** Egyptian sources reported an Israeli attack on a post in the central sector of the Gaza strip, inflicting casualties (*see also Israel*).

**1 June**—**Border Incidents.** The Prime Minister discussed the situation in the Gaza area with the chief U.N. supervisor of the Palestine armistice who had asked for an 'urgent interview' owing to the rising tension on the frontier. General Burns had already produced a four point plan to relieve tension: the establishment of joint Egyptian-Israeli patrols; the erection of barbed wire along the border line; the withdrawal of militia from forward areas and their replacement by regular troops; and the conclusion of a local commanders' agreement to prevent incidents. Egypt accepted all four proposals, with minor reservations. The Israelis refused to agree to joint patrols.

**EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY. 24 May**—M. Monnet, chairman of the High Authority, sent letters to the six member Governments indicating that he was willing to reconsider his decision to resign because of the positive proposals to foster European integration which had been made recently by the Benelux group.



**FRANCE. 19 May—Algeria.** It was announced that substantial reinforcements of troops and police were to be sent immediately to Algeria and that Algerian troops on operational service in Algeria were to be relieved by units from Germany. The measures would bring the total of armed forces in Algeria up to about 100,000.

**24 May—Constitutional Amendment.** The National Assembly approved by 404 votes to 210 a motion approving in principle the revision of several articles of the Constitution.

**26 May—Soviet Note on four-Power conference (see U.S.S.R.).**

**Algeria.** The Prime Minister, M. Faure, announced the Government's decision to send to Algeria a number of units serving under the N.A.T.O. command in France or Germany, including one whole division. He said the N.A.T.O. authorities had been informed, and added that the very logic of N.A.T.O. required the maintenance of order and security in a country which might one day represent a strategic rear area, and that for France, Algeria must be given priority.

Statement by the Minister of the Interior (see *Algeria*).

**29 May—Tunisian Home Rule.** The Prime Minister and M. Tahar ben Ammar, Premier of Tunisia, initialled in Paris the agreements defining home rule for Tunisia. The French Resident-General was to be replaced by a High Commissioner, who would protect the interests of French settlers, who would continue to have their own chambers of commerce and agriculture and would be represented on municipal councils wherever the French population exceeded 100. Disputes between the two Governments would be referred to a joint council of arbitration.

Judicial powers would be transferred to the Tunisians over a period of fifteen years, and police services in twenty years. France was still responsible for defence. French continued to be the second official language. French education was to be organized by a mission attached to the High Commissioner's office. French and foreign settlers were guaranteed existing rights in religious, cultural, and economic matters.

The Neo-Destour leader, Habib Bourguiba, left Paris to return to Tunis.

**FRENCH CAMEROONS. 25 May—Disorders.** An attack by agitators on the prison at Douala was beaten off by the police and forty people arrested.

**26 May—Riots** occurred in other towns, caused, according to a French agency despatch, by the Union du Peuple Camerounais. Six people were killed and about fifty injured.

**27 May—Fires** in Douala destroyed about 200 houses. Inquiries showed that the U.P.C. was responsible. A curfew was enforced and many arrests made.

**GERMANY. 20 May—East German Road Tolls.** The conference between the three western Ambassadors to west Germany and the Soviet High Commissioner, Mr Pushkin, on the new road tolls in east Germany broke down. A tripartite western statement said that Mr

**Germany (continued)**

Pushkin had rejected the western proposals to designate German experts to discuss the problem and had stated that it could be solved only by direct discussion between the west and east German authorities and did not fall within the scope of the four-Power agreements of 1949.

**East Germany. Warsaw Pact.** The Volkskammer ratified the east European security pact by a unanimous vote. Herr Grotewohl, Prime Minister, said that the temporary exclusion of east Germany from a military contribution was due to the fact that east Germany had only a police force. Once the east German armed forces had been properly established east Germany would also make its contribution. The pact left east Germany free to negotiate for a reunion with the west.

**21 May—West Germany.** Herr Kaiser, west German Minister for All-German affairs, appealed in a broadcast to east Germans not to flee to the west unless they felt compelled to do so. He said that the mounting flow of refugees had caused them concern, and it was necessary that men and women with a will to freedom should remain if possible in east Germany. One of the strongest arguments for the reunion of Germany was the will to freedom of the east German population.

**22 May—Herr Ollenhauer,** Social Democrat leader, speaking at Mulheim, reiterated his Party's opposition to neutralization 'so long as the eastern and western blocs continued to exist', and criticized Dr Adenauer for having declared that the Paris treaties must not be given up in return for the reunification of Germany. He said that was 'a programme against reunification'. The Paris treaties must be discussed at the forthcoming conference. At the same time he was against any solution which would prevent Germany from maintaining her ties with the West.

**25 May—Western Germany.** Dr Adenauer held a conference with his principal Ambassadors from the western capitals. Dr Krekeler, Ambassador to the United States, gave the Chancellor an oral message from Mr. Dulles assuring him of the American view that a policy of neutrality could not apply to Germany. The Federal Foreign Ministry revealed that the Ambassadors to London and Paris had brought similar assurances from the British and French Governments.

**26 May—Admiral Dönitz.** The Federal Government announced that in response to its request for the release of Admiral Dönitz it had been informed by the three western Governments that they were not prepared to support his release at present.

**East German Church.** The Government banned two issues of weekly Church periodicals for publishing 'vicious and slanderous statements' (the resolutions of the Evangelical Church Congress in Spandau the previous week).

**27 May—West Germany.** The Bundestag debated foreign policy, and rejected, by 244 votes to 145, a Social Democrat motion to put off any action on the military clauses of the Paris treaties until after the four-Power talks had been held. Dr Adenauer, replying to objections that the creation of accomplished facts would damage the chances of success of the negotiations for the restoration of national unity, declared



that, on the contrary, without the Paris treaties there would never have been a prospect of a four-Power meeting. To hold up their application would at once 'throttle' the negotiations, and it would also be a breach of trust with the Federal Republic's allies.

**22 May—Communist Riots.** A crowd of some 4,000 Communists from the eastern sector of Berlin tried to break up a meeting in west Berlin of former members of the 3rd German armoured division (the 'Bear Division'). The police arrested fifty-five people, after suffering many casualties owing to attacks on them with tear-gas bombs, knuckle-dusters, and stones.

**East Germany.** The Government protested to the Federal Republic about an alleged strangulation of inter-zonal trade for political ends, which, it said, had virtually halted all trade for two months. East German goods valued at 100 m. marks were piling up in warehouses owing to restrictive practices as to import and export licences.

**31 May—East German Refugees.** The number of refugees reaching west Berlin from east Germany during May, at 13,000, was the highest since 1953.

**GREAT BRITAIN. 20 May—Greek protest *re* treatment of Greek air crews in Cyprus** (*see Greece*).

**22 May—Greek rejection of British position** (*see Greece*).

**23 May—Greek Protest.** The Greek Ambassador delivered the Greek protest *re* treatment of air crews.

**24 May—Greece.** The Foreign Office disclosed that the Government had declined to accept the Greek Government's protest over the incident in Nicosia. It was pointed out that the reason why the Greek airmen were not allowed into the town was purely to avoid the risk of incidents which might have occurred after the recent inflammatory broadcasts from Greece. The arrival of the airmen coincided with a celebration of the Turkish National Day by the Turkish minority.

**25 May—Japan.** The Foreign Office announced that Japan had paid £4.5 m. to the International Committee of the Red Cross and had fully discharged its peace treaty obligations concerning compensation for allied prisoners of war who had suffered undue hardship.

**Indonesia.** The Indonesian Minister announced that his Government had refused permission for Mr Derek Curtis-Bennett, Q.C. to go to Indonesia to defend some thirty-five Dutch and Indonesian subjects accused of attempting subversion (*see No. 9, p. 288 and No. 10, p. 318*).

**26 May—General Election.** Polling for the General Election resulted in the Conservatives winning 324 seats; Associates (Liberal Conservatives, Conservative and National Liberals, etc.) 21; Labour 277; Liberals 6; and Sinn Féin 2. The Conservatives obtained 49.8 per cent of the total votes, and Labour 46.2 per cent. The total votes cast were 26,760,661, representing 76.8 per cent of the electorate. Communists obtained 33,144 votes, but obtained no seat.

**Indonesian Subversion Trial.** The Netherlands Embassy in London issued a statement on the Indonesian Government's refusal to grant visas to Mr Derek Curtis-Bennett, Q.C. It pointed out that

**Great Britain** (*continued*)

throughout Indonesia counsel of various nationalities acted for the defence, and said that it could only interpret the refusal as a continuation of the Indonesian Government's attempts 'to make a qualified defence impossible'. The Netherlands Government assumed that the trial would at least be postponed until defence counsel acceptable to the accused were available.

Indonesian report on cause of loss of Air India air liner (*see India*).  
Soviet Note on four-Power conference (*see U.S.S.R.*).

**28 May—Railway Strike.** A strike of footplate workers belonging to the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen began at midnight.

**29 May**—Members of the National Union of Railwaymen reported for work, but very few trains were running throughout the country, and the Government put into operation special arrangements for the moving of essential supplies of food and raw materials.

**31 May—Railway Strike.** The Queen proclaimed a State of Emergency and made emergency regulations by Order in Council enabling Ministers to relax restrictions on road transport, on the movement of essential supplies, and on postal and telegraph services.

**GREECE. 20 May—Protest to Great Britain.** Mr Stephanopoulos, Foreign Minister, announced in Parliament that he had instructed the Greek Ambassador in London to lodge a strong protest against the 'unacceptable' behaviour of the British authorities in Cyprus towards the crews of five Greek aircraft returning from Korea. He said that the British refusal of permission to leave the Nicosia airfield to men returning from a United Nations mission would injure the feelings not only of the Greek people but of the whole free democratic world. A protest was also being made to the United Nations Secretary-General.

(An official statement in Cyprus had pointed out that the aircraft had only given an hour's notice of arrival and had not requested permission to land through the customary channels. The crew were the guests of the R.A.F. after landing.)

**22 May**—The Foreign Ministry rejected the British 'allegation' that the arrival of the Greek air crews in Cyprus had taken place at one hour's notice. It claimed that the British authorities had been informed of the trip and the eventual three-day sojourn in Cyprus since 21 April by the allied command in Tokyo, and it said that the British Embassy in Tokyo, when consulted, had told the Greek liaison officer that further notice to Nicosia authorities was unnecessary.

**23 May**—The protest to Britain was presented in London.

**24 May**—British refusal to accept Greek protest (*see Great Britain*).

**HONG KONG. 27 May—Loss of Indian Air Liner.** The Government announced that if the police investigations established that the bomb outrage which caused the crash of the Indian air liner on 11 April was committed in the colony everything would be done to bring the culprits to justice. From the Indonesian inquiry finding it seemed

'probable that the explosive device employed was placed in the aircraft in Hong Kong'. More than 100 persons had been interviewed by the police after the disaster, though at that time there was no evidence pointing to sabotage.

**INDIA. 18 May—Goa.** According to Indian reports, fifty-four Satyagrahis who had entered Goa had been fired on by Portuguese troops and four of them wounded. Seven others were said to have been beaten by police and thirteen returned to Indian territory.

**20 May—Freight Rates.** The Minister for Commerce and Industry told the import and export advisory council that if foreign shipping lines carried out their threat to increase freight rates by 25 to 30 per cent, to compensate for loss of business caused by repeated dock labour trouble in Bombay and Calcutta, he would stop such ships from touching at Indian ports. In that case the country would have to do without certain imports.

Conclusion of Indian-Chinese talks on Formosa (*see China*).

**23 May—Korean ex-Prisoners' Protest.** Forty-three former Korean prisoners, in a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, alleged that political pressure was being exerted to return them to North Korea or China. They had been in India since 1953 after choosing to come there rather than to return to North or South Korea. They appealed for U.N. protection and asked for permission to go to South Korea if it was impossible to admit them to Mexico, Argentina, or Brazil. The letter accused India of violating her pledge to treat them as civilians and said rules had been imposed on them and heavy fines for talking to reporters.

**25 May—Sikh Agitation.** Akali Sikhs launched a new campaign for the formation of a Punjabi-speaking State. Batches of them courted arrest by shouting slogans in defiance of a ban. In Ambala and other towns twenty-five were arrested, making a total of 825 arrests since demonstrations against the ban began on 10 May. (The agitation had come to a head because the States Reorganization Commission was shortly to issue its report on the adjustment of State boundaries.)

**26 May—Loss of Air Liner.** The report of an Indonesian Government inquiry, published in Delhi, stated that inspection of the wreckage revealed that a time bomb caused the crash of the Air India Constellation on 11 April in the South China Seas.

**27 May—**Reports current in Delhi stated that irrefutable circumstantial evidence had traced the saboteur of the air liner to Formosa.

**31 May—**The Prime Minister, Mr Nehru, told a press conference that there was a great deal less tension in the world and more hope and understanding. India, he said, did not want to mediate or to interfere, but was anxious to help when given the opportunity, to explore and to explain one country's view to another. Replying to questions, he said that the functions of the Cominform were discussed at Bandung and in his opinion they amounted to interference in the affairs of other countries. Secondly, military alliances increased tensions whether made by the West or by Russia and eastern Europe. Peace through strength

**India** (*continued*)

was, he felt, a misleading slogan. The Asian countries were involved in a cold war without materially increasing their security, and they could add little to the strength of their allies.

Recent talks with the Pakistan Premier had been frank and constructive, and had avoided the old dead wall approach, but American military aid to Pakistan as a factor in the Kashmir problem was more important now than a year earlier, since Pakistan was now a member of a series of interlocking military alliances that brought the cold war to the frontier of India.

**Tea Duty.** The Government announced the halving of the tea export duty as from 1 June, from 8 to 4 annas.

**INDO-CHINA. 19 May—South Vietnam.** Pham Cong Tac, the Cao daist 'Pope', denounced M. Diem's Government as 'pure dictatorship', but added that the return of Emperor Bao Dai was unthinkable, for the Vietnam people had 'lost all confidence in him'. He said that if M. Diem was not displaced the Viet Minh would win the 1956 elections, 'but they are Vietnamese in the north, as in the south, and as Vietnamese they will get along together somehow'.

**Refugees.** A group of 450 refugees reached Saigon from Haiphong, making the total in the 300 days' exchange period under the Geneva agreement about 820,000. It was believed that there were still 50,000 more men in the Haiphong area seeking Viet Minh permission to leave. About 3,500 refugees had asked to be repatriated to North Vietnam in the last fortnight and more than 2,000 had already left. According to a Government statement their reason for seeking repatriation was that they had not been joined by their families who had been prevented from leaving by the Viet Minh.

**20 May—General Ely.** It was announced that General Ely, French Commissioner in Indo-China, had asked the French Government to terminate his appointment. A statement issued in Saigon said that he had been appointed at the time of the Geneva agreement for a limited period, and the 300 days for regrouping of forces had ended.

The French authorities agreed to withdraw all troops of the expeditionary force from Saigon to their cantonments at Bien Hoa and Cap St Jacques, some distance from the city.

A number of Opposition leaders were reported to have been arrested by the Government. They included M. Ung An Ungan, a member of the Imperial family and formerly Bao Dai's personal representative, M. Le Thanh Canh, the personal representative of the Emperor in Saigon, M. Pham Trung Hieu, a nephew of the Cao dai 'Pope', and M. Tranh Van Tuyen, a former Minister of Information. The Government stated that they had been guilty of 'complicity with the Binh X rebels'.

**Refugees.** It was announced that the Viet Minh Government had agreed to a month's extension of the time limit, which had expired on 18 May, for the movement of refugees in Vietnam.

Hoa Hao rebels in Cochin China stopped a Government convoy and stole all the ammunition it was carrying.

**21 May—South Vietnam.** The Saigon Revolutionary Committee sent telegrams to the French President and Prime Minister, and to President Eisenhower and others, informing them that the Vietnamese people had 'pronounced the deposition of the Emperor Bao Dai' and had entrusted M. Diem with the creation of a republic and the election of a national assembly.

**22 May—**According to provisional casualty figures for the Saigon street fighting between 28 April and 8 May, 215 people had been killed and 1,500 wounded. Eight thousand houses had been destroyed by fire and 35,000 people made homeless.

**24 May—**Several clashes between Government and Hoa Hao rebel troops were reported from south of Saigon.

**25 May—**The Revolutionary Committee in South Vietnam arrested the former Prime Minister, Tran Van Huu, alleging that he was about to flee to France to ask the Emperor to appoint him Premier in place of Ngo Dinh Diem.

**26 May—South Vietnam.** The Government ordered a purge of army officers suspected of disloyalty, and the Premier sent thirteen battalions to the area occupied by the Hoa Hao sect and the Binh Xuyen.

**29 May—Vietnam.** Fighting broke out on the borders of Vietnam and Cambodia between the national army and the Hoa Hao sect under Ba Cut, the most active rebel leader.

The 'revolutionary committee' of Saigon, which first announced that Bao Dai had been deposed, issued its political programme. This foresaw the construction of a single party 'to fight against the colonialists and the feudal interests of the Communists' and to arrange a general election for a national constituent assembly.

**31 May—Refugees.** It was announced by the international commission supervising the armistice that the North Vietnam Government and the French High Command had agreed in principle to extend the period for the evacuation of refugees between the two zones until 20 July. It was stated that up to 18 May, the original date fixed, some 700,000 refugees had moved from north to south.

During the previous two days Hoa Hao forces were reported to have done a great deal of damage to roads, bridges, etc in a wide area south-west of Saigon.

**1 June—Vietnam.** The Government forces secured control of virtually the whole of Saigon city, and 35,000 men of the French expeditionary corps withdrew. The Premier told the French press that the Government was determined to assure the safety of everyone residing in Vietnam territory.

**Laos.** The Laotian National Assembly passed a Bill postponing the general election till 25 December (instead of 28 August).

**INDONESIA. 25 May—**Refusal to permit British lawyer to represent Dutch and Indonesians accused of subversion (*see Great Britain*).

Netherlands Government statement on Indonesian refusal (*see Great Britain*).



**INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS. 20 May**—The fourth Congress of the I.C.F.T.U. was opened in Vienna by Dr Körner, President of the Austrian Republic.

**21 May**—Mr Oldenbroek, general secretary, said that the I.C.F.T.U. had expanded considerably during the past two years at the expense of its Communist-controlled rival, the World Federation of Trade Unions, with which they would have nothing to do.

The credentials committee announced that the I.C.F.T.U. had a membership of 54,500,000, affiliated through organizations in seventy-seven different countries.

**28 May**—The Congress ended after adopting resolutions declaring the Confederation's intention to continue its fight to ensure that all workers' rights were respected and to support the free trade unions' fight to obtain a voice in public as well as private enterprises. Other resolutions dealt with its interest in conditions in Kenya, Morocco, Malta, and Cyprus.

**INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION. 20 May—Territorial Waters.** The International Law Commission met in Geneva to consider the question of territorial waters.

A memorandum submitted by the British permanent delegation to the United Nations stated that the question of territorial waters was a matter clearly governed by international law, and that States were not entitled to act entirely at their own discretion. Of the three possible solutions of a uniform, a regional, or a local solution, the memorandum supported the uniform solution. It said that the British Government 'recognize that the reasonable needs of States to exercise control over the waters in the immediate vicinity of their coasts must be met; but they believe that all such needs can in fact be met within the scope of the principle of the three-mile limit, supplemented by a contiguous zone for special purposes'.

Professor J. P. A. François (Netherlands), the special *rapporteur*, speaking on the proposed draft of a future regime of the territorial sea, complained that only fifteen Governments had replied to the questions put to them and not more than five of the Governments represented on the commission had replied.

The commission postponed consideration of the question until after discussion of fisheries.

**24 May—Fisheries.** In a debate on Cuban proposals for the regulation of deep sea fisheries, the British delegate said that they emphasized almost exclusively the position of coastal States and that, as drafted, there was no limit to the area in which a coastal State might enforce unilateral measures. He maintained that there was an equal necessity to safeguard other interests if the articles were to find wide acceptance, pointing out that some coastal States had neglected their fisheries and that other countries had by long custom acquired what might be called a vested interest in other waters on a reasonable basis.

**ISRAEL. 20 May**—Both Israel and Egypt were censured at an emer-



gency meeting of the Israel-Egypt mixed armistice commission in Jerusalem for armistice violations in the Gaza strip on 3 May.

**21 May**—Exchange of fire in Gaza area (*see Egypt*).

**23 May**—Border incident (*see Egypt*).

**29 May—Burma.** U Nu, the Burmese Premier, arrived in Jerusalem.

**30 May—Border Incidents.** Army H.Q. reported an Egyptian attack on the settlement of Ein Hashelosh, in the Gaza area. The Israelis replied, and the Egyptians then fired on Mirim, another settlement.

**1 June—Border Incidents.** Discussions in Cairo with General Burns (*see Egypt*).

**ITALY. 23 May—United States.** Italy and the United States signed an agreement providing that the United States should supply Italy with \$36,600,000 worth of cotton, \$9,100,000 worth of wheat, and \$3,200,000 worth of tobacco against an equivalent sum in lire to be made available by the Italian Government. The greater part of the lire would be treated as a long-term loan, repayable over forty years, for the economic development of southern Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia. The balance would be used for the procurement in Italy of goods and services for American aid programmes in other countries, for the purchase of strategic materials in Italy, and for projects designed to expand the consumption of agricultural products.

**24 May—U.S.S.R.** Government sources, through the semi-official news agency A.N.S.A., replied to a leading article in *Pravda* putting the blame on Italian ruling circles for the unhappy state of Italian-Soviet political, economic, and cultural relations. The *Pravda* article gave a warning that the transfer of American troops from Austria to Italy would reinforce the danger of Italian involvement in 'warlike adventures'.

The Italian reply said that the policy of the Atlantic pact, the Paris agreements, and Western European Union had been freely chosen and finally supported by the Italian Government in the conviction that the unity and power of the West would discourage aggression and reduce tension. Italy should not abandon this policy just when it was beginning to show the fruits of a lessening of tension. The Soviet contention that there was no objective reason why Soviet-Italian relations should not improve was not correct. The Italian Communist Party was the objective cause. Relations could not improve so long as this party agitated in Italy in the service, and under the guidance, of the Soviet Government. A second objective cause was the iron curtain which prevented free communication between the Italian and Soviet peoples. Also cultural relations were conceived by Russia only as a means of Communist political propaganda. A third cause was that not once since the war had the Soviet Union's attitude been inspired by any comprehension of Italian interests.

**30 May—Trieste.** The local Communist Party, in its official organ, condemned the Soviet attitude towards Yugoslavia and flatly contradicted the claim that Beria was responsible for the breach in 1948.

**Italy** (*continued*)

**1 June—World Bank Loan.** Announcement of loan of \$70 m. (*see United States*).

**Switzerland.** Arrest of Communist leaders (*see Switzerland*).

**JAPAN. 25 May**—Payment of compensation for allied prisoners of war (*see Great Britain*).

**Far East Defence Effort.** In a farewell address to the press, General Taylor, U.N. Commander-in-Chief, Far East, expressed praise for the Republic of Korea, saying there had been marked progress in establishing twenty Korean divisions though naval and air forces were developing more slowly. Korea was a committed ally, not reluctant to assume her share of the burden, who could defend herself against any enemy unassisted from outside. He had found in Japan less feeling of partnership than in Korea; there should be reciprocity in defence and much was needed to be done in this direction. He hoped to see Japan come forward rapidly in defence to ease the United States burden.

**29 May—U.S. Farm Surpluses.** An agreement was signed in Tokyo providing for the supply to Japan of \$100 m. worth of American agricultural surpluses. Japan was to receive \$25 m. worth as an outright grant and \$59 m. as a loan for development projects, while the remainder was to be used for the U.S. military and information services in Japan.

**JORDAN. 29 May—Resignation of the Premier.** Tewfiq Abulhuda resigned the Premiership.

**30 May—New Government.** Said Pasha el-Mufti formed a Government, taking the portfolio of Foreign Affairs himself. Bisharah el-Ghaseeb was Minister of Finance; Hazza el-Majali, the Interior; Ali Hasnah, Justice; and Farhan Shbilat, Defence.

**KENYA. 20 May**—The Government announced that talks with the Mau Mau leaders on mass surrenders had broken down, and that intensified military operations had been launched. The War Council stated that the terrorists had failed to carry out a previously agreed 'essential condition', namely 'a substantial token surrender at an agreed place' to show evidence of good faith.

**25 May**—Mr Blundell, Minister without Portfolio, gave the Legislative Council an account of the unsuccessful negotiations with terrorists on mass surrenders. He said there was a small but powerful element of terrorists, probably led by Dedan Kimathi, which was violently opposed to surrender.

The Minister for Internal Security told the Legislative Council that the daily total of persons held in the Kenya prisons was 83,000.

**KOREA. 25 May**—U.N. Commander's praise for South Korea (*see Japan*).

**Appeal to United Nations.** It was learned that the South Korean Government had asked the United Nations to arrange that seventy-six

Korean former prisoners of war in India could make a free choice of the country to which they wanted to go (*see also India*).

**MALAYA. 22 May—Singapore.** The four-day 'stay-in strike' in Chinese high schools ended, following the Government's withdrawal of demands for the expulsion of troublemakers so as to ensure goodwill for the all-party committee of inquiry.

**MALTA. 1 June—Visit of Yugoslav Warship.** The Legislative Assembly adopted unanimously a resolution, moved by the Prime Minister, deploring 'its flagrant disregard of the well-known feelings of the people of Malta' shown by the British Government's decision to invite a Yugoslav warship to visit the naval establishments in Malta and resolving to request that the decision be countermanded. (The training ship *Galeb* had been invited to spend four days in Malta from 10 to 14 June). Mr Mintoff stated that he had protested against the decision, despite the fact that the British Government felt that in the interest of peace and international relations it was necessary that good relations be maintained with the Yugoslav Government.

**MOROCCO. 19 May**—In terrorist incidents reported over the past twenty-four hours one Frenchman and four Muslims were killed and four other Muslims wounded.

**20 May**—One Moroccan was killed and fourteen seriously wounded by the explosion of a bomb in Casablanca.

**22 May**—Three Moroccans were reported killed and at least twenty-three wounded in terrorist outrages since 20 May. One Moroccan had been shot by police when trying to escape from an identity check. Sabotage and arson was also reported.

**23 May**—In terrorist incidents in Casablanca five Moroccans and one negro from Guinea were murdered and eleven Moroccans and two Europeans wounded.

**29 May**—Terrorist incidents at Casablanca brought the week's total of casualties to thirteen dead and twenty-six injured. Bomb attacks were made on a Muslim school and a barracks, and reports were received of the firing of crops, destruction of telephone and telegraph lines, and stoning of buses. Over 100 arrests were made at a village between Marrakesh and Mazagan of men suspected of organizing a rising in the area.

**31 May—Terrorism.** A Moroccan municipal councillor was shot dead by terrorists, making five people murdered in twenty-four hours. Crop burning and destruction of telegraph and telephone lines were reported from several districts, and some shop-owners were killed for not keeping their shops closed.

**NETHERLANDS. 25 May**—Indonesian refusal to allow British counsel to defend accused in subversion trial (*see Great Britain*).

**26 May**—Netherlands statement on Indonesian refusal (*see Great Britain*).

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**NEW ZEALAND. 21 May—External Trade.** According to official statistics New Zealand's export trade in 1954 was £244·4 m.—an increase of £8·5 m. over the previous year. It was the highest total since the record year of 1951. Imports at £213·1 m. were £49·6 m. over 1953 and £16·3 m. below the record year of 1952.

**24 May—Finance.** The Finance Minister announced a surplus of £9·9 m. in the accounts for 1954.

**PAKISTAN. 21 May—Constitutional Question.** The Federal Court dismissed an application by the Government for an extension to 15 August of the order made by the court on 18 April instructing all courts to refrain from taking action against the Government on the ground that laws mentioned in the Emergency Powers Ordinance were invalid. The court also ruled that the Privy Council (Abolition of Jurisdiction) Act was valid.

**Change of Punjab Government.** The Governor of the Punjab dismissed the Government headed by Malik Firoz Khan Noon on the ground that it did not command the confidence of the majority of members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly and that this position had resulted in a steady deterioration of the administration. Sardar Abdul Hamid Khan formed a new Cabinet of seven members.

**PERSIA. 23 May—Ministerial Change.** Dr Ali Amini, Finance Minister, was nominated Minister of Justice by the Shah.

**28 May—Output of Oil.** A spokesman of the oil consortium stated in Tehran that nearly 1,100 m. gallons of oil had been produced in the first two months after the agreement. Persia had received £10 m. in income tax as well as one-eighth of the total crude oil production, while about £1 m. was spent by the consortium in salaries and local taxes each month.

**POLAND. 22 May—Sentence of death** was passed on Adam Boryszka, a Pole accused of spying for American intelligence centres in western Germany.

**PORTUGAL. 18 May—Goa frontier incident** (*see India*).

**RHODESIA AND NYASALAND. 20 May—Northern Rhodesia. Colour Bar Question.** In a memorandum submitted to the mining companies, the Northern Rhodesia Mineworkers' Union proposed the surrender of thirteen categories of jobs to Africans and offered to discuss the surrender of further categories subject to safeguards.

**SAAR FREE TERRITORY. 22 May—Herr Hoffmann, Chief Minister,** recommended the people of the Saar to approve the Franco-German agreement to grant the Saar European status. Saarlanders, he said, were tired of tutelage and never wanted to be governed by others again.

**SOUTH AFRICA. 23 May—Senate Bill.** Dr Dönges, Minister of the Interior, moving the second reading of the Senate Bill (*see No. 10, p.*

331) said that its object was to carry out the mandate of the people, given to the Government in four general elections (including two provincial elections) for separate representation of voters. Having tried in the normal way to give effect to that mandate and having failed, the Government was now compelled to use its reserved powers and the special measures provided in the South Africa Act for enlargement of the Senate.

Dr Dönges said that the Bill proposed three main changes in the constitution of the Senate: (1) the enlargement of membership; (2) election of provincial representatives by direct bloc vote instead of by proportional representation; (3) a change in the number of Senators representing each province. He declared that the constitutional crisis would not have arisen if the Opposition had abided by the 1937 judgement of the Appeal Court. The Government had tried every means to carry out the will of the electors to place Coloured voters on a separate roll, but in view of the Opposition's stubbornness their only recourse was the Bill before Parliament.

Mr Strauss, Leader of the Opposition, said the Opposition could not accept the Bill because it conflicted with all the fundamental principles applying to an Upper House; it deprived large sections of the people of representation in the Senate; and it conflicted with the declared aim of the framers of the Constitution. Under the Bill, over half a million people in the largest two provinces would be unrepresented in the Senate, which would become 'the caucus of the Nationalist Party in the Upper House'. The passing of the Bill would mean the end of the entrenched clauses and the testing right of the courts, which were the only effective guarantee not only of the rights of Coloured people but of White people as well. If the Bill were passed, with others of the same pattern which would follow it, the road would be clear for a one-party system in an authoritarian republic to be declared by a bare majority—a republic outside and completely divorced from the Commonwealth.

Mr Strijdom, Prime Minister, reaffirmed that the object of the Bill was to give effect to the mandate of the people to place Coloured voters on a separate roll and to ensure the sovereignty of Parliament. He claimed that it was supported even by many English-speaking people, and said that the campaign to make them believe that their language was in danger had been organized to fill them with race hatred. The Opposition campaign was merely a continuation of the struggle against the independence of South Africa.

**Torch Commando.** It was announced that the Torch Commando was to be remobilized in opposition to the Senate Bill.

**25 May**—A gathering of over 20,000 in Johannesburg acclaimed a resolution asking Parliament to withdraw the Senate Bill and order the necessary steps to be taken to enable voters to declare whether the required majority approved 'this admitted attempt to circumvent the entrenched clauses of the Act of Union'.

The Natal Provincial Council approved by 20 votes to 4 a motion condemning the South African Government's Senate Bill on the ground that it was designed to make Parliament subservient to a political party's bosses.

**South Africa** (*continued*)

**27 May—Senate Bill.** The Senate Bill was given a second reading in the House of Assembly by 91 votes to 61.

**31 May—Western Defence.** Mr Strijdom told a military gathering at Pretoria, celebrating Union Day, that South Africa would have to play its part in the joint defence of the western way of life in any world war. In time of danger its sons would fight shoulder to shoulder regardless of language or racial groups.

**SUDAN. 20 May—**Egyptian statement on Nile waters agreement (*see Egypt*).

**24 May—Nile Waters Dispute.** The Prime Minister announced that Egypt had made a new proposal to solve the Nile waters dispute under which waters gained from the new Nile projects would be divided equally between Egypt and the Sudan without prejudice to existing rights. Talks would be held in Khartoum in the near future.

**SWITZERLAND. 1 June—Italian Communists.** The police arrested a number of Italians in Zurich, Basle, and other towns on charges of organizing Communist cells in factories to extend their grip over the Italian colony and to operate a political information service. All the arrested men were members of the Italian Communist Party.

**TUNISIA. 21 May—**Abdelkrim Gamra, a leading member of the extreme nationalist old Destour party, was shot dead at Msaken, near Sousse, following a clash there between old and new Destour party supporters.

**22 May—**A bomb exploded outside a neo-Destour office at the Bardo, near Tunis. There were no casualties but damage was considerable.

To mark the end of Ramadan the French authorities released thirty-four common law prisoners on probation and another fifty-seven pending trial.

**29 May—Home Rule.** Signature of agreements defining home rule (*see France*).

**1 June—**Habib Bourguiba arrived in Tunis, after three years of exile and was given an enthusiastic welcome by a crowd of over 250,000 people. Speaking to Neo-Destour supporters he said 'We have just accomplished a step towards independence; the Tunisian State is now a reality. If we have made concessions it has been because we wished to create a modern State with French collaboration.'

**TURKEY. 19 May—**Execution of alleged spies in Russia (*see U.S.S.R.*).

**UGANDA. 20 May—**The African representative members of the Legislative Council protested to the Acting Governor against the supposed intention of the Government to appoint an Asian as one of the two non-African unofficial Ministers, on the introduction of the ministerial system on 1 July.



**UNITED NATIONS**

**23 May**—Appeal by former Korean prisoners (*see India*).

**25 May**—South Korean appeal *re* former prisoners in India (*see Korea*).

**1 June**—**U.S. Airmen Held in China.** U.N. H.Q. announced that the Secretary-General had made another approach to the Peking Government about the eleven U.S. airmen held prisoner in China.

**Economic and Social Council**

**27 May**—The Council adjourned after passing a resolution regretting the infringement of trade union rights in east Germany, Spain, Rumania and other countries and recommended, by 14 votes to 2, to the Governments concerned that they should 'cease the practice of censoring outgoing news despatches in peace-time'.

**Economic Commission for Europe**

**24 May**—Figures issued by the E.C.E. showed that exports from western Europe to eastern Europe totalled \$974 m. (f.o.b.) in 1954, an increase of 23 per cent on 1953; exports in the reverse direction totalled \$1,034 m. (c.i.f.), an increase of 14 per cent. Yugoslavia had virtually no trade with east European countries in 1954.

**International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

**1 June**—Loan of \$70 m. to Italy (*see United States*).

**The International Labour Organization**

**1 June**—The general conference of the I.L.O. opened in Geneva. Its main subject of discussion was that of the relations between employers and workers at all levels in factories, nationally and internationally.

**UNITED STATES. 19 May—President's Veto.** President Eisenhower vetoed a Democratic Bill which would have increased the pay of 500,000 postal workers by an average of 8·8 per cent.

**Civil Defence.** A Senate armed services sub-committee reported that civil defence in the United States was unprepared to deal with nuclear warfare.

**20 May—U.S.-Canadian Radar Agreement** (*see Canada*).

**23 May—Fifth Amendment.** The Supreme Court upheld the appeals of three persons against sentences for contempt of Congress incurred, in each case, by invoking the Fifth Amendment as ground for refusing to answer questions of the un-American activities committee.

**Italian-U.S. surplus commodities agreement** (*see Italy*).

**25 May—Germany and the Four-Power Conference.** Mr Dulles, Secretary of State, told the press that in the American view a policy of neutrality had no application to a country of the character of Germany. He also declared that neither the German people, nor the Russians, nor the peoples of western Europe wished to see Germany as an independent State with an unlimited army. In regard to the concept of a neutral belt

**United States** (*continued*)

in eastern Europe, he said that the United States would welcome a group of independent States in east Europe playing an independent role. He thought the Austrian State treaty and the consequent departure of Russian troops from Austria was bound to have repercussions in neighbouring States, particularly Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The impending visit of Soviet leaders to Yugoslavia was also, he thought, bound to have an effect on people who had been 'kicked around and treated like puppets'. All this would set in motion forces that would create new opportunities—and new problems for Russia. In discussing the causes of tension one would be blind not to recognize that one of them was the fact that countries once free had been deprived of the independence and freedom promised by the peace treaties. This was a real problem between east and west which must be taken into account in any genuine effort to clear up points of difference at the four-Power conference. At the same time Mr Dulles emphasized that the talks at the summit were designed not as an end but as a beginning to open up new paths. One could not expect in the time available to solve problems which had defied solution for generations. What was needed was a new impetus and a new spirit.

**Chief of Naval Operations.** Rear-Admiral Burke was nominated to succeed Admiral Carney as Chief of Naval Operations on the latter's retirement in August.

**U.S.S.R.** Testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the foreign aid programme, Mr Dulles said that the United States eagerly welcomed and would explore in good faith all possibilities of ensuring a just and durable peace. 'We welcome recent Soviet deeds which suggest a greater degree of tolerance and a greater acceptance of freedom and independence. However it would be a great mistake to judge that the danger was now past. . . There could be no worse moment to depart from the policies which the (aid) programme represents, and which have brought us where we are.'

**26 May**—Soviet Note on four-Power conference (*see U.S.S.R.*).

**27 May**—Return of Lease-Lend vessels (*see U.S.S.R.*).

**Refugee Relief.** President Eisenhower sent a message to Congress asking for changes in the Refugee Relief Act to make the admission of refugees easier and to reaffirm America's 'great tradition of sanctuary'. It recommended the waiving of the requirement of individual sponsorship of refugees in cases where a voluntary welfare organization was prepared to take responsibility, and other changes.

**29 May**—**Japan.** Sale of farm surpluses to Japan (*see Japan*).

**30 May**—**Four-Power Talks.** Mr Nixon, the Vice-President, speaking at Memorial Day ceremonies honouring the dead of all the wars in which the country had fought said it would be the fault of the Communists if the talks with Russia failed. They were the only real threat to peace and only a policy of military strength and diplomatic firmness by the West would avoid war.

**31 May**—**Racial Segregation in Schools.** The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that southern States must end segregation in tax sup-

ported schools as rapidly as possible, having regard to local conditions.

**1 June—Loan to Italy.** The International Bank for Reconstruction announced that it had made a loan of \$70 m. in various currencies for the development of southern Italy, to be divided about equally between Sicily and southern Italy. The loan would be guaranteed by the Italian Government and would bear interest at 4½ per cent. It was to be repaid in thirty-five instalments between 1958 and 1975. Irrigation projects in Sicily would receive \$20 m. and eight power projects in southern Italy \$30 m.

**Americans in China.** The State Department announced that representations had been made to the Chinese Government through the Chinese Consul in Switzerland for the release of sixty-three U.S. citizens still held in China. They included the eleven airmen shot down during the Korean war, and eleven naval and coastguard men 'about whom the Red Chinese had been professing complete ignorance', but who, the State Department said, 'we have reason to believe are alive' and in Chinese hands. There were also forty-one civilians, of whom twenty-five were in gaol.

New approach to China by the U.N. Secretary General (*see United Nations*).

**UGANDA. 28 May**—The Governor, Sir Alexander Cohen, left for London, as did also the president of the National Congress at the head of a congress delegation hoping to see the Colonial Secretary about immediate self-government, and a Lukiko delegation which was to ask for the return of the Kabaka.

**U.S.S.R. 19 May—Espionage.** The State security committee announced the execution of three men for espionage on behalf of Turkey.

**22 May—Four-Power Talks.** The leading article in *Pravda* said that President Eisenhower and Mr Dulles in recent statements had produced 'foolish proposals' for the forthcoming four-Power conference 'which were evidently designed to wreck such negotiations'. Mr Dulles's proposal that the four-Power conference should discuss 'the re-establishment of the old regimes in the countries of the Peoples' Democracies, and prohibition of the Communist progressive movement in the capitalist countries' caused doubt of the sincerity of the American agreement to hold talks, and suggested that the Americans wanted 'simply to talk about negotiations in order to wreck the negotiations, blaming the Soviet Union and proving that collaboration with the U.S.S.R. is out of the question'.

**24 May—Mr Kaganovich.** It was learned that Mr Kaganovich, a first deputy Premier, had been appointed chairman of a committee set up by the Supreme Soviet to 'strengthen State control over the work of ministries and directorates and to improve their work in all questions of labour and wages'.

Soviet-Italian exchange on Soviet-Italian relations (*see Italy*).

**25 May—United States.** The Army newspaper, *Red Star*, accused the United States of having recently sent spies and diversionists into the

**U.S.S.R. (continued)**

Soviet Union, mainly by parachute, and it called for vigilance to counter such spies.

**26 May—Note to Western Powers on Four-Power Conference.**

In a reply to the western proposal of 10 May for a four-Power conference the Government accepted the proposal, emphasizing the desirability of an agreement on a reduction of armaments and recalling the Soviet disarmament proposals of 10 May. The Note called attention to certain statements by leaders in the United States which indicated that the U.S. Government approached the meeting 'from a position of strength', and it suggested that this showed a desire to exert inadmissible pressure on the conference, although the futility of such attempts in discussions with the Soviet Union had been repeatedly demonstrated. United States personalities had even made attacks regarding the People's Democracies. Such attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other States were incompatible with U.N. principles and must be rejected. By coming forward with such plans the United States was condemning the conference to failure and was 'obviously not striving for the settlement of urgent international problems'. (The Notes to Britain and France said that the British and French Governments could 'hardly agree' with recent statements by U.S. leaders on the conference.)

The Note declared that the aim of the meeting should be a reduction of tension and the strengthening of confidence, and that the heads of Governments could decide the questions for discussion and the methods for solving them and give instructions accordingly to their Foreign Ministers. It proposed Vienna as the most suitable meeting place.

Visit of Soviet delegation to Yugoslavia (*see Yugoslavia*).

**27 May—U.S. Naval Vessels.** It was learnt that the Government had undertaken to return to America sixty-two small naval vessels lent to Russia under the Lease-Lend Act. This left fifty-nine still in Soviet hands of the 186 originally lent.

**YUGOSLAVIA. 21 May**—In a speech in Slovenia, Marshal Tito said that Yugoslavia did not intend to change her foreign or internal policies for considerations of aid, and she would not accept aid if given under conditions.

**26 May—Visit of Soviet Delegation.** A Soviet delegation led by Mr Khrushchev, and including Marshal Bulganin and Mr Mikoyan arrived in Belgrade by air. Mr Khrushchev stated on alighting that the Soviet leaders sincerely regretted what had happened in their relations with Yugoslavia. 'We condemn', he said, 'the provocative role which has now been exposed and which was played by Beria, Abakumov, and others'. A study of the material on which the deep insults and charges against the leaders of Yugoslavia were based had shown that 'this material was forged by the enemies of the people, the agents of the imperialists who, by deceit, infiltrated into the ranks of our party'. Press reports stated that the mention of Beria caused laughter among the Yugoslav journalists present.

**27 May**—The discussions with the Soviet delegation were described as correct in tone; public opinion in Belgrade had, however, been critical of Mr Khrushchev's speech at the airport as being in bad taste and discourteous, while his attempts to portray Beria and others as responsible for the bad relations between the two Governments were resented and ridiculed. His efforts to establish ideological links with the Yugoslavs were believed to be aimed at compromising the country in Western opinion. The press emphasized that the talks were of an inter-State character, and were being held on the initiative of the Russians.

**29 May**—The Soviet delegation travelled to Brioni Island accompanied by President Tito. *Borba*, the Communist organ, stated that the talks with the Russians so far had been held in a 'workmanlike atmosphere', and had been found 'useful' by both sides; it supposed that there were 'numerous differences' between the two sides.

**31 May**—The Soviet delegates left Brioni for a tour of Slovenia and Croatia. *Borba* reported officially that their talks had been held 'in an atmosphere of mutual understanding' during the previous day.

**1 June**—**Visit of Warship to Malta.** Maltese resolution *re* visit of the *Galeb* to Valetta (*see Malta*).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| June 20-26       | United Nations Tenth Anniversary Celebration, San Francisco. |
| July 4           | Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, Strasbourg.       |
| " 12             | Socialist International, Fourth Congress, London.            |
| " 27             | General Election, Malaya.                                    |
| Aug. 8-20        | U.N. Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Geneva.   |
| Sept. 26-Oct. 14 | East-West Trade Talks, Geneva.                               |
| " 29             | Indonesian Elections for a Constituent Assembly.             |

## INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MEMORANDA

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<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of Completion</i>	<i>Price</i>
*THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN: A Background Note	April 1955 (revised)	3s. 6d.
CYPRUS: Background to Enosis	21 September 1954 (revised)	1s. 6d.
THE STATUS OF FORMOSA	March 1955	6d.
FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA: A Background Note	5 February 1954	1s. od.
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PANAMA: Background to the Present Political Situation	17 January 1955	6d.
SARAWAK: The Political and Economic Background	22 March 1955 (revised)	1s. od.
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